

Archie
ACTION!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM



SONIC UNIVERSE | 73

SONIC UNIVERSE™

SPARK
OF LIFE
3
OF 4

ASSESSING THREATS...

RECOMMENDED
ACTION...

...TERMINATION

Tracy
Yantley!

WORLDS
UNITE
IN **3**



SONIC UNIVERSE™

SPARK
OF LIFE
#**3**
OF 4

EXTREME BFFS VARIANT

SONIC UNIVERSE | 73



Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Where Nicole, the artificial intelligence, is finally confronted by a mysterious being ...



**CHARACTER
= SELECT =**



**PRINCESS
SALLY ACORN**
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER



**NICOLE THE
HEDGEHOG**
ADVANCED A.I.



DR. ELLIDY
RETIRED HERMIT



???

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

CLOSED SPACE SECRETS

On Isolated Island, Sally, Tails, Nicole and Big met up with Nicole's creator, Dr. Ellidy. After Dr. Eggman attacked the island in the past, Dr. Ellidy repurposed the madman's leftover badniks for his own use.



However, the badniks have started to misbehave... and while Nicole tries to get to the root of the problem, Sally stumbles upon a dark secret...



SONIC UNIVERSE (ISSN: 2657-3050), No. 73, April, 2015. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Mike Pollerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies \$3.99. Subscription rate: \$47.99 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic the Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2015. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2015. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 350 Rhode Island Street, Ste 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC UNIVERSE, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in USA.

ISOLATED
ISLAND...

WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?
WHO *IS* THIS? SHE
REMINDS ME OF
NICOLE--

DON'T YOU
SAY THAT.
DON'T.

SALLY ACORN
LEADER AND
PRINCESS

DR. ELLIDY
HERMIT
SCIENTIST

WHAT'S YOUR
PROBLEM WITH
NICOLE, ANYWAY?
YOU *CREATED*
HER!

THE PHOTO
IS OF MY DAUGHTER.
NIKKI. SHE...PASSED
AWAY SEVERAL
YEARS AGO.

NICOLE WAS
SUPPOSED
TO SAVE HER LIFE.

THE DIGITAL WORLD

NOW *THAT'S* INTERESTING.

INTRIGUING.

FASCINATING.

NICOLE
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE
AND HERO

SYSTEM
PARTITIONE

YOU KNOW,
IF AN ORGANIC
BEING DIES WITH
A SECRET, THAT
SECRET DIES
WITH THEM.

BUT DIGITAL
INFORMATION IS
STORED,
REPLICATED,
SPREAD OUT
INDEFINITELY...IT'S
MUCH HARDER
FOR IT TO
DISAPPEAR.

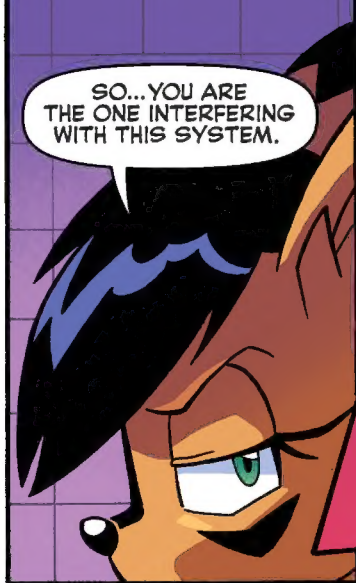
IF DR. ELLIDY WERE TO
DIE, WHAT SECRETS WOULD
HE TAKE WITH HIM?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

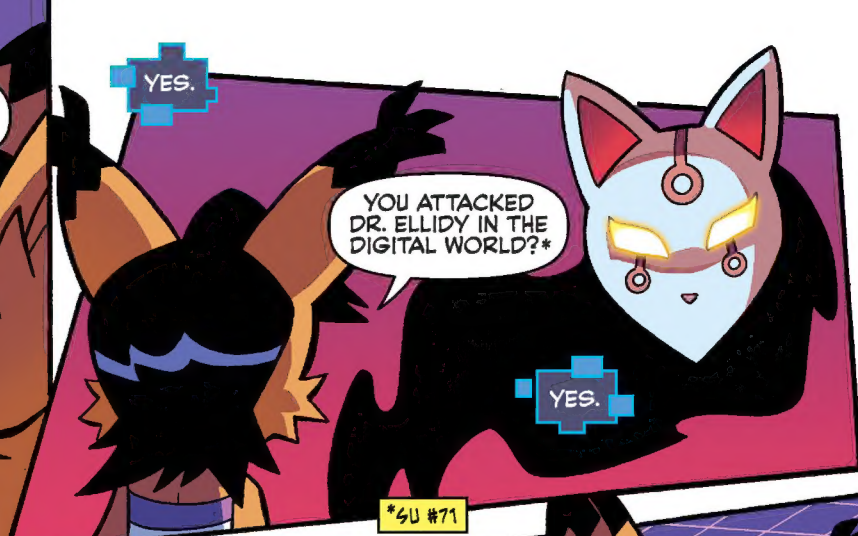
WHO ARE
YOU?

Oh. YOU CAN
CALL ME PHAGE.





YES.



YES.

*SU #71



YES.

*SU #72





WELL.
THAT WAS CUTE.

AMUSING.

MILDLY
ENTERTAINING.

I'M HERE
WITH CERTAIN
OBJECTIVES,
NICOLE.

I INFILTRATED THIS
SYSTEM BEFORE
YOU EVEN KNEW IT
WAS HAPPENING.

YOU CAN'T
STOP ME.

TALK IS *SLOW*.

AND WHILE
I *DO* FIND YOU
FASCINATING...

THE PAST...

MOBOTROPOLIS,
WESTSIDE ISLAND

NOK
NOK

EL?

WHAT? I'M
BUSY. YOU
KNOW
THAT.

LOOK, I KNOW THINGS
ARE ROUGH, BUT...WHEN'S
THE LAST TIME YOU
SLEPT? OR ATE?

I'M FINE. I'M
NOT STUPID.

I WROTE THIS
PROGRAM TO HELP
MAP OUT THE NEURAL
PATHWAYS THERE.

CHUCK THE
HEDGEHOG
DOCTOR

MAPPING...28%

...THIS IS FROM
YOUR DIGITIZER?
THEN...DID YOU
ALREADY MANAGE
TO TRANSFER--

NO. NOT YET.
THAT FIRST SCAN
IS TO LAY DOWN THE
GROUNDWORK. A
STRUCTURE. THEN...
THEN I CAN...

EL...WHY DON'T YOU
LET THAT PROGRAM HANDLE
THINGS FOR A BIT AND--

ANY
SUDDEN
BREAK-
THROUGHS
ON THE ROBOTI-
CIZER?

...NO.

THEN THIS
IS ALL I HAVE
LEFT.

THE PRESENT...

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. NIKKI IS YOUR DAUGHTER. BUT NICOLE IS NOT NIKKI.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, NIKKI'S DEAD. SHE WAS... WASTING AWAY.

I'D HOPED SHE COULD LIVE ON IN SOME FORM VIA THE DIGITIZER... BUT...

THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM THAT WAS MAPPING HER NEURAL SCANS... THAT... BECAME NICOLE?

LOOK, I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, BUT IT'S **NOT** FAIR TO BLAME NICOLE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S DEATH!

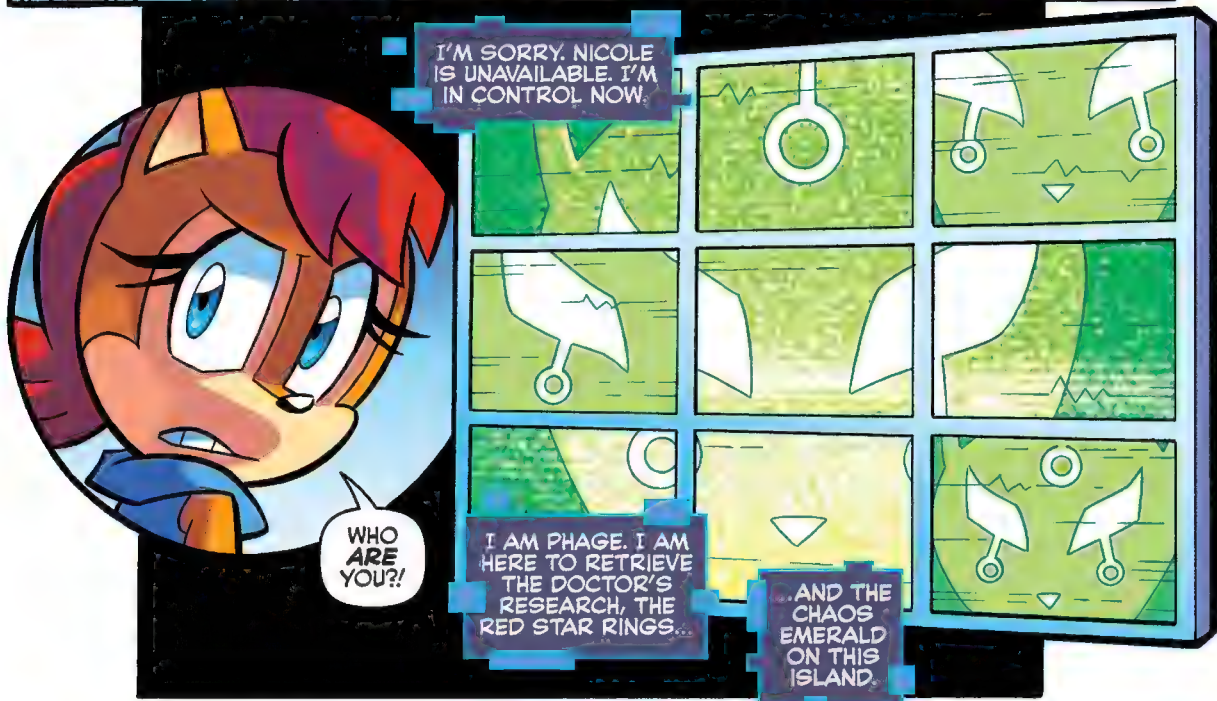
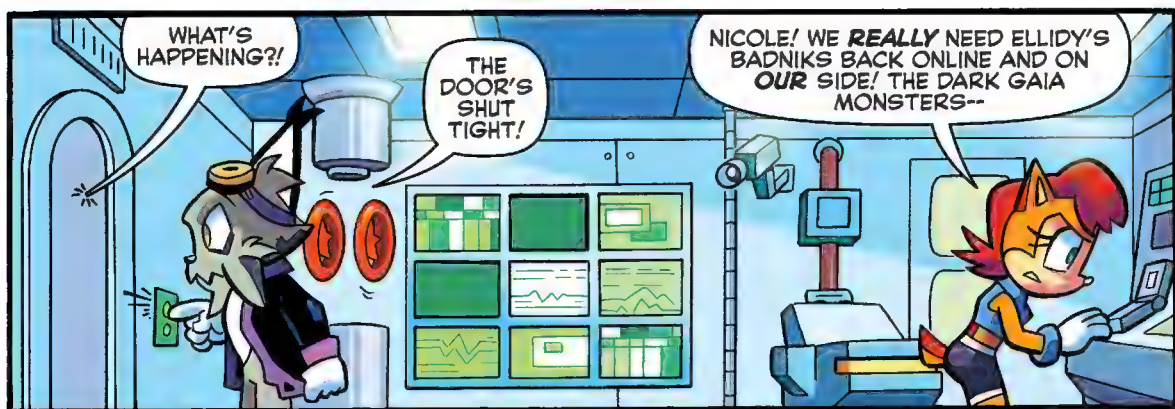
I DIDN'T!

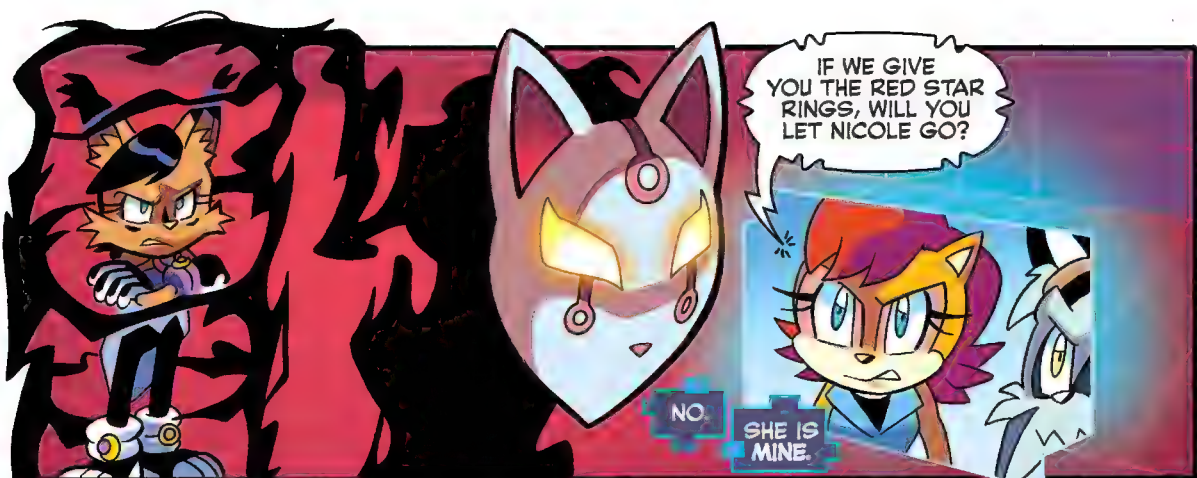
THAT'S WHY I GAVE NICOLE TO YOU INSTEAD OF JUST DELETING IT ALL!

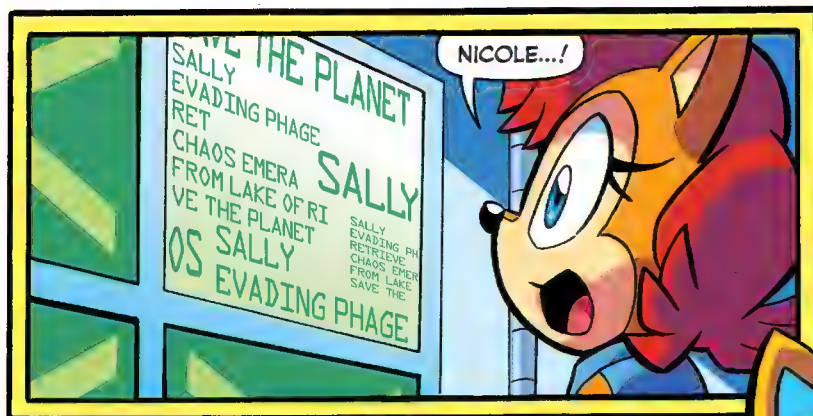
BUT NOW... SEEING HER LIKE THIS... WALKING AROUND WHILE MY POOR NIKKI NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO... TO...



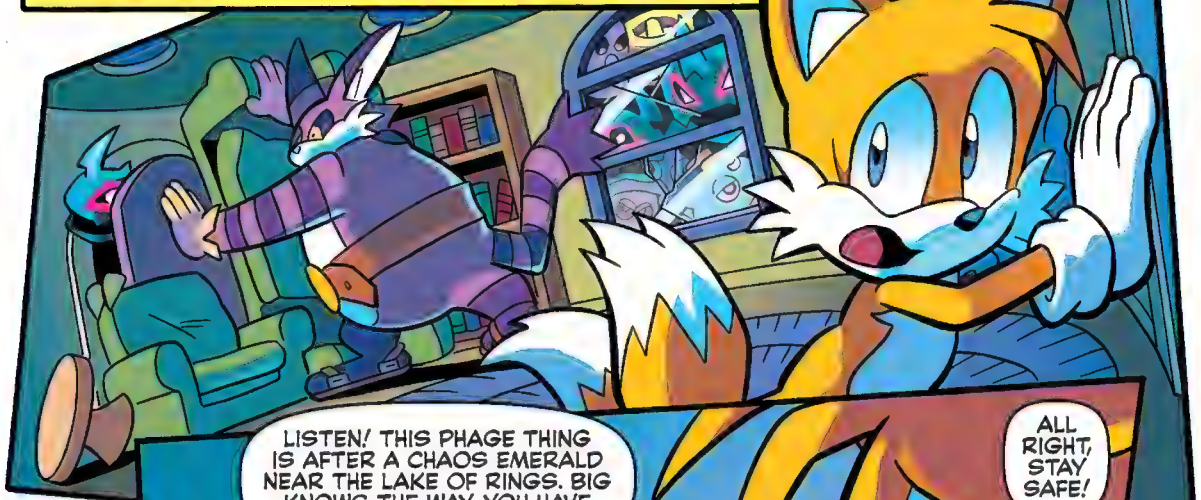








SALLY! THE BADNIKS AREN'T DOING ANYTHING TO STOP THE DARK GAIA MONSTERS-- THEY'RE ALL TRYING TO BUST IN!



ALL RIGHT, STAY SAFE!

BUT...

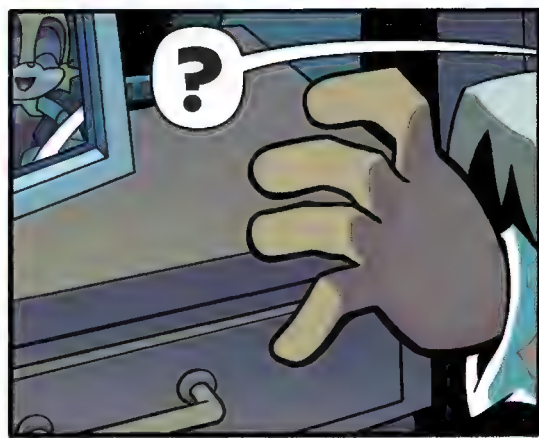
BIG PICTURE, TAILS! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO IT!

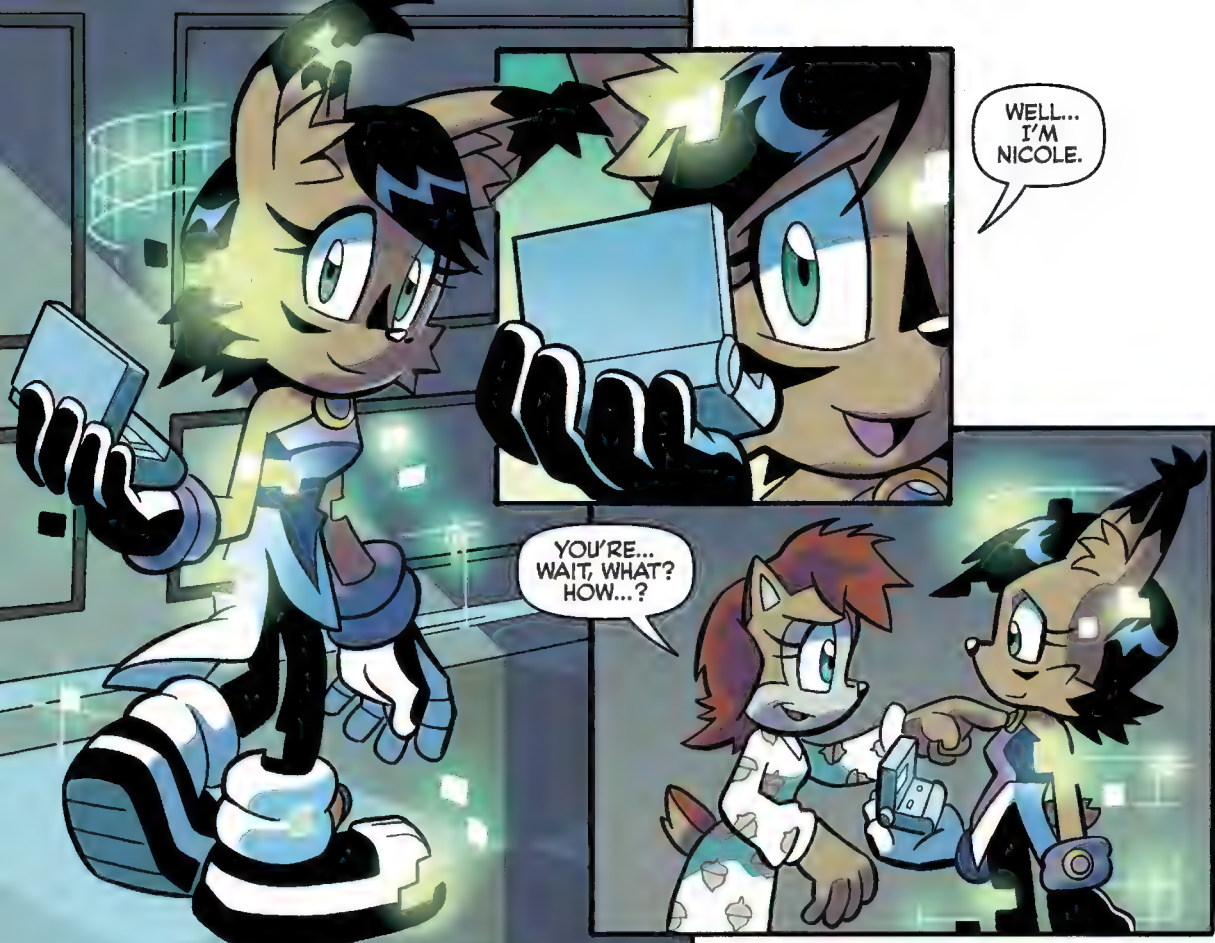
KRASH

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY? ABOUT GOING OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...?

I KNOW. BUT AS LONG AS PHAGE IS HERE...

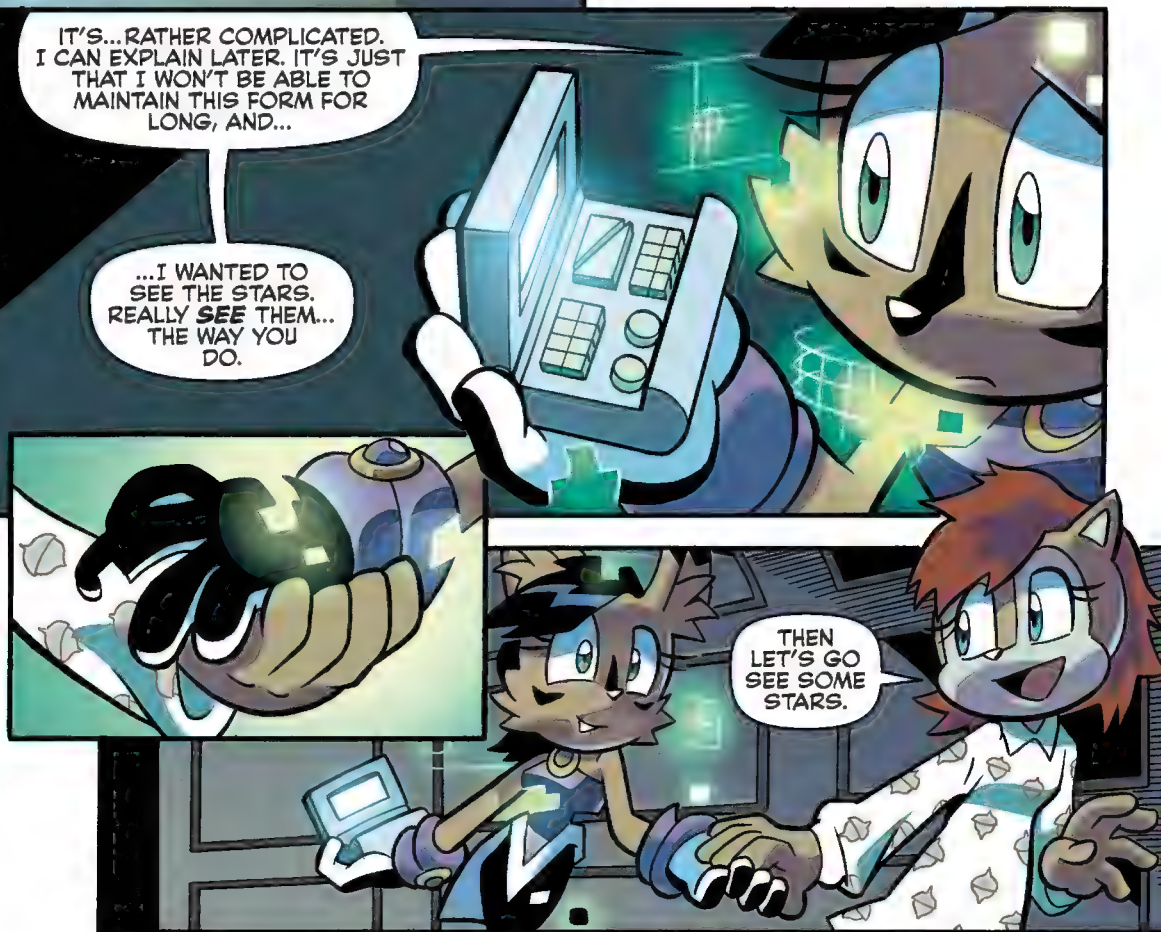
...WE'RE ALL IN DANGER.





IT'S...RATHER COMPLICATED. I CAN EXPLAIN LATER. IT'S JUST THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THIS FORM FOR LONG, AND...

...I WANTED TO SEE THE STARS. REALLY **SEE** THEM... THE WAY YOU DO.



THE PRESENT--
THE DIGITAL WORLD

ARE YOU REALLY
TRYING TO RUN AWAY?
THERE'S NOWHERE FOR
YOU TO GO, NICOLE.

IT'S
FUTILE.

POINTLESS.

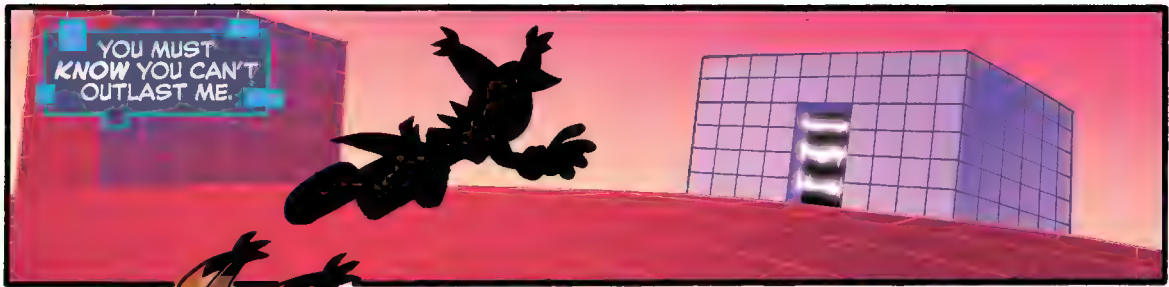
HOPELESS.

I CONTROL THIS SYSTEM.
I WILL ABSORB YOUR UNIQUE
CODING ALONG WITH EVERY-
THING ELSE.

I DON'T HAVE
A COZY LITTLE
HANDHELD LIKE
YOU. I AM
EVERYWHERE.

I AM NOT
CONTAINED
BY ANY
SERVER. I'VE
INFECTED
HUNDREDS OF
SYSTEMS. ALL
OF THEIR
INFORMATION,
THEIR
RESOURCES,
THEIR
PROCESSING
POWER...

ARE LINKED DIRECTLY TO MY CORE.







A stylized illustration of a fox mask, likely representing the character Kunoichi. The mask is white with red markings on the ears and around the eyes. The eyes are glowing yellow. The mask has a small red triangle on the chin and a red circular mark on the forehead.



A comic panel with a red background and a black grid. A large, dark, swirling mass with a glowing yellow and orange core is on the left. A speech bubble from this mass contains the text "I PROMISE IT WON'T HURT." A small, dark, spiky creature with large eyes is on the right, looking up at the mass.

...BUT I'M NOT HOLDING MYSELF TO THAT PROMISE.

IF YOU WANT NICOLE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!

IF YOU WANT NICOLE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!



OFFER
ACCEPTED.

SPARK (OF) LIFE

PART THREE

PLOT: IAN FLYNN / SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER
PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY / INKS: JIM AMASH
COLORS: MATT HERMS / LETTERS: JACK MORELLI

COVER by: TRACY YARDLEY

EXTREME BFFS VARIANT COVER by: AGNES GARBOWSKA

ASSISTANT EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO

EDITOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDITORIAL: PAUL KAMINSKI

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK

PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO / PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER

SPECIAL THANKS TO: TYLER HAM, ANTHONY GACCIONE

and the CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT
of SEGA CORPORATION

CORRUPTED ROBOTS AND DARK MONSTERS

ARE RUNNING **RAMPANT!!**

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE THREAT
IS TO SHUT DOWN PHAGE HERSELF--
BUT CAN SALLY AND NICOLE
FIGHT HER IN HER OWN ELEMENT?!

FIND OUT NEXT MONTH IN THE
HIGH-STAKES CONCLUSION OF
SPARK OF LIFE!

AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, AND THE
BRAND NEW SERIES **SONIC BOOM**
EACH MONTH, THE **SONIC SUPER**
SPECIAL MAGAZINES AND **SONIC SUPER**
DIGESTS EACH QUARTER, AND THE
GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY ANY TIME!

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC UNIVERSE 74



SPARK OF LIFE

THE CONCLUSION